

For Immediate Release: April 5, 2005
Contact: Julie Morrison, NWPP Coordinator, (208) 343-1615
Rick Stott, NWPP Chairman, (208) 338-2500

Northwest Pilot Project to Host Animal ID Symposium

On May 17th, livestock producers, state animal health officials from around the region, and the interested public will gather in Boise, Idaho to discuss the realities of animal identification in the West. The Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP), one of the premier animal identification pilot projects in the nation, will host the Animal Identification (ID) Symposium, featuring presentations by world renowned ID experts and open forums to discuss critical issues.

In 2004, the Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP), a USDA supported, seven-state industry coalition, began working towards developing a positive solution for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) that would be practical, reasonable, and cost effective for the livestock producers of the Northwest. Since its inception, the NWPP has been featured in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, *London Times*, *Western Livestock Journal*, and *Drovers Magazine*. Currently, well over 100 livestock producers and 21,000 head of cattle, sheep and bison are involved in the project. Results from the NWPP will provide the basis for the discussion at the Symposium, featuring identification issues facing industry and government alike.

“We are incredibly excited to have the leading industry and state representatives from across the Northwest in one place to talk about the most critical elements and greatest challenges to implementing animal ID in our region,” said Rick Stott, NWPP Chairman. “It will be well worth the time to attend the Symposium to hear the latest on ID from people on the cutting edge,” Stott continued.

Participants in the NWPP, livestock producers, state officials, press, and interested public are all invited to attend the Symposium. Attendees will have the chance to learn about the latest developments in the NAIS and hear the global perspective on animal identification.

The Symposium will also feature examples of individual and group/lot identification and the tracking of animals as they have moved through the production chain and traveled across the region. Participants will also receive the most current information on premises identification and registration, presented by a panel of state animal health authorities.

The Animal ID Symposium will be held at The Grove Hotel, located at 245 South Capitol Boulevard, in Boise, Idaho. Pre-registration for the event is requested by May 6, 2005. The Symposium will be free to NWPP participants and cooperating state agency officials. A nominal fee will be charged to other interested persons wishing to attend. Registration forms and additional information are available on the NWPP website at www.northwestpilot.org. Also, please feel free to contact Julie Morrison, NWPP Coordinator, at (208) 343-1615.